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Whitehall, December 1.

THE Letters from the East Indies, of which the following are Extracts and Copies, were Yesterday received by the Leopard, one of His Majesty's Ships.

Extract of a Letter from the President and Council at Fort St. George, in their Political Department, to the Court of Directors, dated June 21, 1791.

WE avail ourselves of an Opportunity that presents itself, viâ Bombay, of writing to your Honorable Court on the Subject of the Military Operations on this Coast, since the Date of our last Advices by the Warren Hastings.

Lord Cornwallis, having drawn Supplies from the Magazine on the Western Frontier, marched (as we had the Honour to inform you in our last) from the Head of the Vencatagherry Pass on the 22d of April, and reached Bangalore on the 29th of that Month; from whence his Lordship wrote to us, that as his Cattle had suffered very considerably during the March, by the heavy Rains which had fallen, it was necessary for us to provide, with all possible Expedition, a further Supply of Draft and Carriage Bullocks. Orders were in consequence immediately given for this Purpose.

The Army remained in the Neighbourhood of Bangalore Five Days, to recruit their Provisions, and prepare Materials for the Siege of Seringapatam. Colonel Duff was relieved from the Command of the Fort by Lieutenant-Colonel Oldham; and on the 3d of May Lord Cornwallis marched towards the Capital of Mysore.

We did not hear again from his Lordship until the 31st of May, when he informed us (in a Letter dated the 9th) that he found the Country more rugged and barren than he expected, and that his Cattle had suffered very much by the March: That the Zeal of the Troops alone had enabled him to go on, the greatest Part of the Carriages, loaded with the Stores of the Magazine, and a large Proportion of the entrenching Tools, having been drawn and carried almost all the Way by the Soldiers.

A few Days after, we had the Satisfaction to learn, by private Accounts from the Army on which we could depend, that Lord Cornwallis had, on the 15th of May, attacked and defeated Tippoo's whole Force, taken Four of his Guns, and driven him, with all his Troops, under the Walls of Seringapatam. This signal Victory was the more honorable to the British Arms, as the Enemy had been forced from Heights, where he was strongly posted. Lord Cornwallis's Account of the Action has not yet reached us.

Our next Advice was by an Express from Lieutenant-Colonel Oldham, in which he stated, that he had received a Letter from Lord Cornwallis, dated the 22d of May, advising, that "the Want of Forage, Provisions, and the reduced State of the Cattle, had rendered it necessary for the Army to return immediately to Bangalore." Lieutenant-Colonel Oldham added, from other Intelligence, that "his Lordship, for Want of Bullocks, had been under the Necessity of destroying the Battering Train."

We were much concerned to observe, that the Wants of the Army had at length forced his Lordship to relinquish, in the Midst of Victory, the Object of his Enterprize; but, foreseeing that much might depend on immediate Exertion, we lost not a Moment in issuing our Orders for collecting all the Bullocks that could be procured in the Country under our Management, and for transporting to Amboor, for the Use of the Army, ample Supplies of Grain and every other Provision.

We advised Lord Cornwallis of the Steps we had taken for the Relief of the Army, and expressed our Hope that, by the Exertions we were making, added to those of Captain Alexander Read, whom we had before sent with a Detachment into the Mysore Country to procure Supplies, his Lordship would find his Distresses considerably relieved on his Arrival at Bangalore.

On the 7th Instant we were informed, by private Advices from Camp of the 26th of May, that the Maratta Army had joined Lord Cornwallis that Evening, and that great Hopes were entertained of Relief by this Means in the Article of Provision.

On the 10th Instant we received a Letter from his Lordship, dated the 24th Ultimo, stating that the rapid Destruction which the late heavy Rains and the Want of Forage had occasioned among his Cattle, in Addition to the very unexpected Obstructions to a Junction with General Abercromby, owing to the Badness and almost Impracticability of the Fords of the Cavery, had obliged him, not only to give up all

all Thoughts of attacking Seringapatam before the Setting-in of the Monſoon, but alſo to deſtroy the heavy Iron Guns, which, for the laſt ſeveral Marches, had been drawn almoſt by the Soldiers: That the Famine which had prevailed amongſt his Followers had likewiſe increaſed his Difficulties, by creating an alarming Deficiency in the Public Stock of Proviſions; which could not be wondered at, when it was underſtood that Rice ſold in the Buzar for a Pagoda a Seer, (about 2lbs.) and that, under this Conſideration, it was not to be expected that Maiſtries and Bullock-Drivers would be able to withſtand the Temptation of plundering the Bags committed to their Charge on every March.

His Lordſhip concluded by obſerving, that he had been obliged to remain near Seringapatam to ſecure the Retreat of General Abercromby, who had advanced to Periapatam; but that he ſhould march on the 26th to Bangalore and Vencatagherry. He requeſted that we would order every Bullock that could be procured to be ſent immediately to Amboor, that he might be able, without Loſs of Time, to furniſh Supplies for the Troops, and to replace ſuch Part of the Stock at Bangalore as he might be obliged to make Uſe of during the March.

We informed Lord Cornwallis, in Reply, that, from the Exertions which had been made by Government, there was the greateſt Probability that we ſhould have at Amboor, in the Courſe of Six Weeks, or Two Months at furtheſt, Six Thouſand Draft and Twenty Thouſand Carriage Bullocks, (the Number required by his Lordſhip) and that there were at preſent in the Neighbourhood of that Place 1,787 Draft and 3,477 Carriage Bullocks.

A few Days ago we received Two Letters from his Lordſhip, dated the 31ſt Ultimo and 5th Inſtant. By the former we were adviſed that he had marched on the 26th towards Bangalore, but that on coming to the Ground where he propoſed to encamp, he was greatly ſurprized to hear that the Two Maratta Armies, commanded by Hurry Punt and Purſuram Bow, (both of which he had every Reaſon to believe to be at the Diſtance of 150 Miles) were then actually within a Day's March, and that Purſuram Bow's Son, with the advanced Guard, was in Sight: That this unexpected Event had naturally occaſioned a total Change of his Plan, eſpecially as he found that the Chiefs, although they had heard that the Attack of Seringapatam had been neceſſarily poſtponed till the Concluſion of the Rains, entertained no Idea of retreating towards their own Frontier, but were diſpoſed to co-operate heartily with his Lordſhip in diſtreſſing Tippoo, and cutting off his Reſources. That they had further aſſured him, at the firſt Meeting, that they had it in their Power to relieve the greateſt Difficulties under which he laboured, viz. the Want of Grain and of Bullocks. That he felt tolerably confident he ſhould procure a ſufficient Number of the latter in their Camp to anſwer his immediate Exigencies, but that their Supplies of Grain, through the Means of Benjarries, were ſo precarious, and the Authority of the Chiefs over thoſe People, even if they kept their Word in endeavouring to exert it, ſo inefficacious, that he was very apprehenſive he ſhould be held, for a conſiderable Time at leaſt, in a State of wretched Dependence on the Maratta Buzar, where he would not only be obliged to pay an immenſe Price for a ſcanty Subſiſtence, butbe expoſed at all Times even to the Riſk of a total Failure.

His Lordſhip thought it, however, ſo great an Object to keep 30,000 Maratta Horſe in the Neighbourhood of Tippoo's Capital, that it was to be attempted almoſt at all Hazards; and that he had already in his Converſation with the Chiefs paved the Way for leading them towards the Sera Country and the Vicinity of Bangalore, as ſoon as the Safety of the Supplies, which were following Purſuram Bow, ſhould admit of his moving ſo much to the Left.

His Lordſhip added, that ſeveral Letters had been written to him by the Maratta Chiefs during their March, to give him Notice of their Approach, but that no Letter from either of them had reached him 'till the Day of their Arrival, which he conſidered ſingularly unfortunate, as he would have adopted a very different Plan of Operations if he had known Eight or Ten Days before that he could have depended upon the Junction of ſo powerful a Force.

The concluding Paragraph of the Letter ſtated, that General Abercromby had marched from Periapatam on the 23d of May, and was proceeding towards the Head of the Gaut, without any Interruption from the Enemy, leaving Four Iron Eighteen-pounders, which his Cattle could not remove, and which he could not totally deſtroy, at Periapatam, as well as a ſmall Quantity of Proviſions and Stores; and that the General expected to deſcend the Gaut on the 27th.

Lord Cornwallis's Letter of the 5th Inſtant adviſes us, that it was his Lordſhip's Intention to move the next Day towards Nagamungalum, to which Place the Benjarries of the Two Maratta Armies were to direct their March, and which, as well as the Roads leading to it from the Northward, it was conſequently very neceſſary to take great Care to protect. That Tippoo ſtill remained with his whole Force near to Seringapatam, and that no Judgment could be formed 'till the Cavery was on the Point of becoming unfordable, which would be the Caſe in a few Days, whether he (Tippoo) would determine to make Head againſt the Confederate Armies in that Quarter, or endeavour to diſturb the Southern Provinces.

His Lordſhip preſſed us not to loſe Sight of the great Object of providing Bullocks and Grain, and of ſending Supplies of Arrack and Camp Equipage to Amboor: That theſe, and various other Meaſures, he conceived to be abſolutely neceſſary, upon the Suppoſition that the War might continue longer than we expected; for that although Tippoo had repeatedly expreſſed an earneſt Deſire for Peace, his Lordſhip was by no Means convinced that the Enemy was prepared to make the Sacrifices that the Confederates might think they they had a Right to expect.

Lord Cornwallis proceeded to inform us, that his Wants in Money would be preſſing and extenſive; that the Supply of the Army during the Rains, and its Equipment for the Field, excluſive of the Corps under General Abercromby, could not be eſtimated at leſs than between Thirty and Forty Lacks of Rupees; and he deſired us therefore to take our Meaſures accordingly. He added, that he would have us conſider whether it would not be adviſeable to take ſome Aſſiſtance from the Treaſure ſent out on the Company's Ships, which was deſtined for China; and that whatever we might reſolve upon would have his Sanction. In the mean Time he deſired that we would ſend Seven or Eight Lacks of Rupees to Vellore, to ſupply the Wants of the Army, as ſoon as the Communication was ſecured.

It was a peculiar Satisfaction to us at this Time to reflect, that we had actually in our Treaſury the full Amount of what his Lordſhip repreſented to be neceſſary for him during the Rains, and for the ſubſequent Equipment of his Army, notwithſtanding the ample Advances made for your Inveſtment.

We have been thus particular in detailing to your Honorable Court the Tranſactions of the War, becauſe the Subject is important; and we can readily conceive the Anxiety you muſt feel to receive Advices by every Opportunity.

We have the Pleaſure to inform you, that the Fort of Copoole ſurrendered to the Nizam's Army on the 17th of April.

Extract

Extract of a Letter from the President and Council at Fort St. George, in their Political Department, to the Court of Directors, dated July 14, 1791.

WE ſhall now reſume the Narrative of the Military Operations on this Coaſt ſince the 21ſt Ultimo, the Date of our laſt Addreſs on this Subject.

On the 30th of laſt Month we received a Letter from Lord Cornwallis, dated the 14th, in which he informed us that the Cavery River had riſen very conſiderably, but was ſtill fordable: That Tippoo had not only brought his whole Force acroſs the River, but a conſiderable Quantity of Artillery and Stores, from which his Lordſhip ſuppoſed that it was the Intention of the Enemy to give every Diſturbance in his Power, to interrupt our Supplies, and in particular to prevent, as much as poſſible, the Equipment of our Part of the Army, from which he (Tippoo) well knew he had the moſt ſerious Misfortunes to fear.

That the Neceſſity of his Lordſhip's regulating his Movements in Concert with the Marattas, and protecting their Supplies, would keep him ſo much to the Weſtward, that it would be certainly poſſible, and he by no Means thought improbable, that Tippoo, who could have no Apprehenſion for Seringapatam for the next Four Months, might make a rapid March to Ouſſore, and from thence paſs into the Barampaul and Carnatic.

His Lordſhip added, that we might be aſſured he would give us the earlieſt Intelligence of ſuch an Event; but he deſired us, in the mean Time, to be upon our Guard, and, amongſt other Precautions, to reinforce the Garriſon of Arnee, and take every Means in our Power to tranſport the Stores and Proviſions, that were not wanted for the Uſe of that Garriſon, from thence to Vellore, and, if poſſible, to Amboor.

We received a Letter from Lord Cornwallis of the 25th Ultimo, ſtating that the Marattas, having now no further Apprehenſions about their Communications, or Safety of their diſtant Detachments, acquieſced in his Lordſhip's beginning to move to the Eaſtward on that Morning; and that unleſs, after minutely reconnoitring the ſtrong Hill Fort of Severndroog, (about Twenty-five Miles to the Weſtward of Bangalore) he ſhould be encouraged to attempt the Reduction of that important Poſt, he ſhould probably, in Four or Five Days, reach the Neighbourhood of Bangalore.

His Lordſhip added, that an Outline of his future Plan of Operations had been explained and concerted with the Maratta Chiefs: That they had agreed not to ſeparate from him until the War was brought to an honorable Concluſion; and that he ſhould take an early Opportunity of communicating to us the Particulars of what had paſſed between him and thoſe Chiefs at ſome of his late Conferences with them.

We have received Letters from his Lordſhip, dated the 21ſt and 24th Ultimo: The Firſt, ſtating that he had been obliged, for Reaſons he could not then explain to us, to promiſe a conſiderable Loan to the Marattas; and deſiring, therefore, that we would immediately take the Amount of Twelve Lacks of Rupees out of the China Ships, notwithſtanding any Orders to the contrary that we might have received, and coin it into Rupees, with as much Diſpatch as poſſible.

His Lordſhip, in the Second Letter, requeſted we would inform the Supreme Council, that he thought it would be highly expedient for the Public Service that the Swallow Packet ſhould ſail from hence for England in the very Beginning of the Month of September; and that he therefore recommended it to them to tranſmit their Diſpatches, either by Land or Water, in ſuch Time as would nearly enſure their Arrival at Fort St. George by the 31ſt of Auguſt.

In Reply to his Lordſhip's Letter reſpecting the Loan to the Marattas, we obſerved, that the Sum of Twelve Lacks of Rupees would be held in Readineſs to anſwer any Call which he might have for it.

We have very ſincere Pleaſure in reporting to your Honorable Court, that Captain Alexander Read, whom we had ſent into the Myſore Country, with a Detachment, to collect Supplies, arrived lately at Bangalore, with a very large Convoy of Bullocks, Sheep and Grain for the Uſe of the Army; a Circumſtance particularly fortunate at this Juncture, when the Troops were reduced to ſo much Diſtreſs for all Kinds of Proviſions.

We underſtand that his Lordſhip has expreſſed, in General Orders, his Acknowledgment of the Service rendered by Captain Read. The whole Supply, collected by that zealous and active Officer, amounted to 1952 unloaded Bullocks, about 9000 Load of Grain brought by the Benjarries, 14567 Sheep, and 100 Horſes.

As the Service performed by Captain Read had been conducted throughout with great Ability and Judgment, we expreſſed to him our warmeſt Approbation of his Conduct; and we reſolved, in order to enable him to defray the extraordinary Expence which he had ſuſtained on this Occaſion, and as a further Teſtimony of our Acknowledgment of his Services, to give him a Gratuity of One Thouſand Pagodas.

As the Intercourſe with the Army was opened by Lord Cornwallis's Movement to the Eaſtward, we thought it might be eſſential to his Lordſhip's Plans to inform him of the exact State of our Treaſury, which ſtood on the 4th Inſtant as follows:

In the Caſh Cheſt, Star Pagodas -	2,41,469
In the Treaſury, in Pagodas and Rupees - - - -	3,84,232
Ditto in Bills - - - -	8,528
Ditto in Porto Novo Pagodas -	1,44,206
Ditto in Dollars - - -	2,55,768
In the Mint, in Arcot Rupees -	1,49,686
Total Star Pagodas -	11,83,889

All the Bills drawn from Camp had been regularly paid, and our Garriſon and Civil Eſtabliſhment had been alſo paid up, ſo that we were fully prepared to ſupply the pecuniary Wants of the Army during the Rains, and to re-equip it for the enſuing Campaign.

Since writing the above, we have received Letters from his Lordſhip, under Date the 28th Ultimo, and 1ſt and 2d Inſtant, Copies of which we have the Honor to forward as Numbers in the Packet.

Your Honorable Court will obſerve, that it was his Lordſhip's Intention to approach near enough to Bangalore to enable him to depoſit the Sick in that Place, and to avail himſelf of the large Supply of Proviſions collected by Captain Read; after which he meant to proceed to the Reduction of Ouſſoor, and to place the Troops in ſuch a Poſition as to exclude Tippoo completely from all the principal Northern Paſſes leading to the Eaſtward from the Myſore Country.

The great Satisfaction expreſſed by his Lordſhip at the Efforts of this Government to aſſiſt in the arduous and important Cauſe in which your Arms are engaged, affords us the moſt ſenſible Pleaſure; we feel the Neceſſity of extraordinary Exertion at this critical Juncture; and your Honorable Court may rely upon our Aſſurances, that we will moſt heartily co-operate with the Governor-General in every Matter dependent upon us, to enable him to proſecute the War with the utmoſt Vigor, and, we ſincerely hope, with the moſt ſignal Succeſs.

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